

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 19 are currently pending in the application.

This amendment is in response to the Office Action of January 19, 2006.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Anticipation Rejections

Anticipation Rejection Based on Ohmi et al. (U.S. Patent 5,931,722)

Claims 1 through 7, and 10 through 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ohmi et al. (U.S. Patent 5,931,722).

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. *Verdegaal Brothers v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Applicants assert that the Ohmi et al. reference does not and cannot anticipate the claimed inventions of independent claims 1 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 because the Ohmi et al. reference does not identically describe, either expressly or inherently, each and every element of the claimed inventions in as complete a detail as is contained in the claims.

Turning to the cited prior art, the Ohmi et al. reference describes a chemical mechanical planarization apparatus for a wafer having polishing pads 42 revolving around axles 26 having slurry passing therearound in passageway 31 having a jacket 32 through a front surface of a polishing pad. Slurry is removed from the wafer by channels or gaps 46. Applicants assert that jacket has no thin annular edge whatsoever thereon. Applicants assert that such a thin annular edge is neither illustrated in any drawing figure of the Ohmi et al. reference, nor described in any portion of the specification of the Ohmi et al. reference. Applicants assert that jacket 32 is clearly illustrated in drawing FIG. 5 as having a flange (no number) on the end thereof, not a thin annular edge.

Applicants assert that the Ohmi et al. reference fails to describe the elements of the claimed inventions of independent claims 1 and 13 calling for “providing an etchant-dispensing apparatus having an inlet thereto for an etchant agent and a tubular member having at least one

thin annular edge thereon to clean material from the wafer”, “placing an area of the wafer within an annular member of the etchant-dispensing apparatus, at least one thin annular edge of the annular member of the etchant-dispensing apparatus located adjacent a portion of the wafer to clean material from the wafer”, “aligning the wafer and the etchant-dispensing apparatus to clean material from the wafer”, “dispensing an etchant through another tubular member having a portion thereof surrounded by the tubular member having at least one thin annular edge thereon onto the area of the wafer using the etchant-dispensing apparatus to clean material from the wafer”, “removing the etchant”, and “chemical mechanical planarizing the wafer prior to removing the material from the wafer; providing an etchant-dispensing apparatus having a tubular member, an annular member having at least one thin annular edge thereon, and an inlet for etchant for selectively removing a material from a wafer; aligning at least one area of the wafer and at least a portion of the etchant-dispensing apparatus for selectively removing a material from a wafer; dispensing an etchant through another tubular member having a portion thereof surrounded by the tubular member having at least one thin annular edge thereon onto the at least one area of the wafer for selectively removing a material from a wafer; and removing the etchant using a portion of the etchant-dispensing apparatus for selectively removing a material from a wafer”. In contrast to the elements of the claimed inventions of independent claims 1 and 13, the Ohmi et al. reference has no etchant-dispensing apparatus having an inlet thereto for an etchant agent and a tubular member having at least one thin annular edge thereon to clean material from the wafer or dispensing an etchant through another tubular member having a portion thereof surrounded by the tubular member having at least one thin annular edge thereon onto the area of the wafer using the etchant-dispensing apparatus to clean material from the wafer whatsoever. The sleeve 32 does not extend to the pad 42 and does not have a thin annular edge thereon in Ohmi et al. Therefore, independent claims 1 and 13 are allowable as well as the dependent claims therefrom.

Anticipation Rejection Based on Ohmi et al. (U.S. Patent 5,931,722)

Claims 13 through 15, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ohmi et al. (U.S. Patent 5,931,722).

Applicants assert that since independent claims 1 and 13 are allowable, dependent claims 13 through 15, 18 and 19 therefrom are allowable.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Obviousness Rejections

Obviousness Rejection Based on Ohmi et al. (U.S. Patent 5,931,722) in view of Iwashita et al. (U.S. Patent 5,722,875)

Claims 8 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohmi et al. (U.S. Patent 5,931,722) in view of Iwashita et al. (U.S. Patent 5,722,875). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as hereinafter set forth.

Applicants assert that since independent claims 1 and 13 are allowable, dependent claims 8 and 16 therefrom are allowable.

Obviousness Rejection Based on Ohmi et al. (U.S. Patent 5,931,722) in view of Drill (U.S. Patent 6,190,236)

Claims 9 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohmi et al. (U.S. Patent 5,931,722) in view of Drill (U.S. Patent 6,190,236). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as hereinafter set forth.

Applicants assert that since independent claims 1 and 13 are allowable, dependent claims 9 and 17 therefrom are allowable.

Applicants submit that claims 1 through 19 are clearly allowable over the cited prior art.

Applicants request the allowance of claims 1 through 19 and the case passed for issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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